

† † †

The Hammer

WORLD WIDE REFORMATION

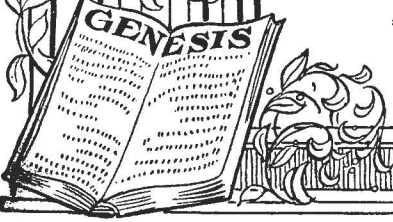
"He that Winneeth Souls Is Wise"



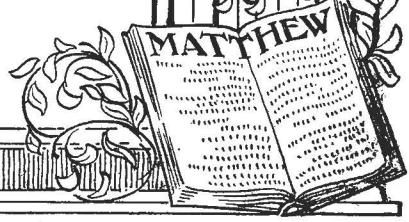
"BLESS YOU, MY CHILDREN"

THE
COMMANDMENTS
OF
GOD

AND
THE FAITH
OF
JESUS



Vol. VI Savannah, Ga., Feb., 1927 No. 2



THE BANNER

Entered as second-class matter August 7, 1923, at the post office at Savannah, Georgia, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Published monthly by the Banner Publishing Association, a Corporation of Free S. D. A., 610 W. 36th St., Savannah, Ga.

Price.....10c per Copy, \$1.00 per Year

J. W. MANNS.....Editor
MRS. L. L. JOHNSON.....Associate Editor
J. B. MOSLEY.....Contributing Editor
C. A. EDWARDS.....Contributing Editor

General Assembly Directory

Office Address.....610 W. 36th Street
Telegraphic Address.....610 W. 36th Street
Cable Address.....Adventists, Savannah, Ga.

Executive Committee

(Office Address: 610 W. 36th Street)

J. W. MANNS.....President
MRS. L. L. JOHNSON.....Secretary-Treasurer
W. L. BLUNT.....D. E. WILLIAMS

Foreign Members

C. B. MEAD.....Kingston, Jamaica, B. W. I.
J. B. MOSLEY.....Port Limon, Costa Rica, C. A.
C. A. EDWARDS.....Banes, Orte, Cuba

AN APPEAL TO MEMBERS OF FREE S. D. A. CHURCHES

"Every Free S. D. A. Church Member, a Paid Subscriber for 1927."

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

Just a few words concerning our little paper, "The Banner."

This paper has been a great help to our work in the past, and we are expecting it to accomplish much more in the future, by the help of the Lord. And you know, when the Lord helps it is through those human agents whom He has intrusted to carry forward the upbuilding of His cause. This does not mean ministers, Bible workers, and other general helpers alone, but it means EVERY INDIVIDUAL Church Member along with these.

Those who have been faithful in subscribing for, and distributing "The Banner" should remember to "Be not weary in well doing." And those who have neglected through carelessness or procrastination should realize that it is time to arise and be about their Father's business, for "He is counting on you. If you should fail him, what then?"

When we wonder about the size of the Banner or anything else, let these questions follow: Have I done my duty? Am I among those who caused this by not even subscribing? If your answer does not sound

just right to you, then just arise, as did the prodigal and subscribe, subscribe and get subscriptions.

Our church at Moron, Cuba, has sent in a renewed list of regular subscribers and each subscriber an additional one for a friend or relative. Now this is a bit of missionary work for the benefit of others, and yet it helps to support "The Banner" at the same time.

Many of our subscribers are due. Will you kindly let us know that you have read this appeal and accepted it in the right light by sending to the Banner Publishing Association, your renewal with at least one extra subscription for 1927.

We solicit the special aid of our Ministers, Bible workers and Missionary leaders in this effort.

Yours for the advancement of the Banner Publishing Association.

E. E. DENNISON,
Manager.

SCAVENGERS

In order that the earth might be free from defilement the Lord created scavengers for the earth, sea, and air.

Who has not watched the carrion birds circling round and round, following the scent from some decaying carcass until at last they discover and greedily devour it, thus freeing the air and earth from defilement.

In every body of water God has placed scavengers, like tidy housekeepers watching for everything that would defile the purity of the water. In the ocean the mackerel and other fish have no fins and scales swim in the clear water and feast upon any dead or decaying substance they find floating in the water. While at the bottom of the sea thousands of creatures are busy devouring all defiling substances that may have sunk to the bottom.

To prevent His people from eating these scavengers and thus taking into their systems all this filth, the Creator has placed a mark upon them. "Whatsoever hath no fins and scales in the waters, shall be an abomination unto you, . . . ye

shall not eat of their flesh." Lev. 11:9-12. Eels, oysters, crabs, lobsters, etc., are all scavengers and unfit for food.

One of the chief scavengers on the land is the swine. It is so fond of everything filthy that the term "hog" has become a synonym for the vilest thing.

Strange that this filthy beast is a staple article of food in our beloved land! In regards to eating swine's flesh, God says, "of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcass shall ye not touch." Lev. 11:7, 8.

God compares eating swine's flesh to a smote in His face. Isa. 65:4, 5.

The Lord plainly states that when He comes to gather the harvest of the earth, He will destroy all who have continued to eat swine's flesh. Isa. 66:15-17.

Why eat that which is filled with disease when there are so many good things to eat.

BABYLON IN PROPHECY

In the seventh chapter of Daniel the prophet in vision saw four great beasts come up from the sea. The first beast was a lion with eagle's wings. Daniel was not left in doubt in regard to the meaning of the vision; for in answer to his request a heavenly messenger explained that the beasts represented four kingdoms that would exist upon the earth. Dan. 7:15-17. In the explanation of this vision no names are given to the kingdoms; but to Daniel who was acquainted with the Bible this was not necessary: Some fifty years before Jeremiah had written, "Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him, and last this Nebuchednezzar, king of Babylon, hath broken his bones." Jer. 50:17.

Daniel was a student of prophecy, Dan. 9:2, and must have recognized the lion as a symbol of Babylon; neither would the eagle's wings upon the lion seem strange to him, for he must have been familiar with the prophecy of Habakkuk written more than eighty years before, in which he described

the conquests of the Chaldeans (Babylonians) stating they would "fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat." Hab. 1:6-8.

Daniel was familiar with these symbols and also familiar with the character of the Babylonian kingdom as he had held high official positions in the government many years.

In vision he watched this lion power until its eagle wings were plucked; its armies were weakened, and it could no longer "fly as the eagle" in conquering raids upon its enemy.

He saw a change: "It was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it." Dan. 7:4. The noble attributes of the lion and eagle were no longer symbols of this nation. A man's heart—"Deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked," Jer. 17:9, was given it. As a nation it had filled up its cup of iniquity. Its time of probation had passed. How vividly all this must have appeared to Daniel when three years after he had seen the "man's heart" given the lion, he was called to interpret the mystic letters of fire upon the palace wall, and read their meaning before the terror stricken king—"Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting; thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Meads and Persians." Dan. 5:26-28. God, Himself, numbered Babylon and finished it. Nations have existence as long as they serve God's purpose in the earth; but when they become deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, they pass off the stage of action and other nations follow. Thus Babylon passed and the nation represented by the bear in Daniel's vision followed.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The first prophetic utterance of Amos is, "The Lord will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem and the habitations of the shepherds shall moan, and at the top of Carmel shall wither." Amos 1:2. Jeremiah, one hundred and seventy years later, uses

nearly the same words in describing the coming of the Lord. Jer. 25:30, 31.

Amos evidently had a view of the signs spoken by the Saviour in Matt. 24:29. Three times in his small book he refers to these signs. In Amos 4:12, 13, we read "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel! For lo, He that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, the Lord, the God of hosts, is His name." We read further of this darkness, "And it shall come to pass in that day saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in a clear day." Amos 8:9. Here it is plainly stated that the darkness would be at its height at noon, that it would be a clear day; while Amos 4:13, states that the darkness would be in the morning. In Amos 5:8, the prophet's attention is attracted to the constellations in the heavens, and he said, "Seek Him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night." The prophet evidently saw the dark night following the noted dark day of May 19, 1780.

The signs in the heavens foretelling the advent of the Saviour were not the only ones shown to the prophet Amos, for just before he speaks of the sun's being darkened in a clear day, in Amos 8:8, he says, "Shall not the earth tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly, as a flood; and it shall be cast out and drowned, as by the flood of Egypt. What would more fully describe the famous Lisbon earthquake of 1775 when the sea arose and swallowed up ninety thousand of the inhabitants of Lisbon? Again, he says it is the Lord that "calleteth for the waters of the sea and poureth them out upon the face of the earth." Amos 9:6. What word could better describe the terrible tidal waves that are proclaiming that "the great

day of the Lord is near, and hasteth greatly." Zeph. 1:14.

As Amos prophesied of the captivity of Israel and their return from Babylon, he was permitted to look down through the ages and see the time when what had once been the chosen people of God would not be taken captive by only one nation, but would be sifted "among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve." Amos 9:9. Then he adds, "In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old." Amos 9:11.

In Acts 15:13-18, James quotes this prophecy and applies it to the gospel going to all the earth to gather out a people for the Lord.

Amos was not only shown the gospel going to the earth after the death of Christ, but adds, "Behold, the days come when the plowman will overtake the reaper, and the treader of the grapes him that soweth seed." Amos 9:13. He saw the closing work, when, at the very time that the great final judgment in the heavens was deciding the eternal destinies of some individuals, other souls would be receiving the first rays of light and be taking their stand for the first time to serve the Lord. Amos gives us a vivid picture of the time of trouble, which comes after every case is eternally decided in the courts of heaven. When souls who have put out the claims of their Saviour will awake to find that "the harvest is past and they art not saved." "Behold the day comes, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the word of the Lord, and they shall wonder from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord, and shall not find it." Amos 8:11, 12. No invitation of mercy will then be given, for the door of mercy will be forever closed, and only vengeance awaits those who have not accepted the Saviour. The prophet closes

his book with a view of true Israel gathered in the earth made new, where they "shall also make gardens and eat the fruit of them." The last lines contain the following precious promise. "I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land, which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God." Amos 9:14, 15.

We do not need to defend the truth. Truth is its own defense. Not many years ago merchants and bankers, when they left their places of business, turned off the lights and put up great heavy shutters. Today they pull aside the blinds and turn on a strong light. The greatest protection the truth of God can have is to expose it so that everyone may see what it does. Let us give up trying to guard our faith. It is better far to live it.—Sel.

"We cannot expect to be mowers
And gather the bright golden ears,
Until we have first been sowers
And watered the furrows with tears."

"Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do,
Do not wait to shed your light afar;
To the many duties ever near you now be true,
Brighten the corner where you are."

"Our murmurings and repinings arise from our ignorance. We see not the precipice or the pit on the other side of the hedge or wall."

"The world gives its admiration, not to those who do what nobody else attempts, but to those who do best what multitudes do well."

It is possible to entertain devils as well as angels unawares.

Can you read your title clear to mansions in the skies?

Subscribe to the PRESS FUND. Read about it on page 4.

MY HIDDEN TASK

E. F. COLLIER

Father, help me to do my part
Before the night's dark shadows fall;
Before the clouds, the storms,
the tempest,
Shall close thick doors about us all.

Father, I do not know the work
Thou hast for me to do below;
But when thou say'st, "Go and hasten!
Do this for Me!" my God,
I go.

Nothing care I if the vain world
Ignore the station that I fill;
If I may find God's way and purpose
For me, it shall be pleasure still.

To act a quiet, lowly part,
Though treated by the friends I love
As Judas treated Christ,—this blessing
Is more to me than thrones above.

And when I have fulfilled Thy will,
No matter how, without a grudge,
To go or stay—I am contented;
To live or die—Thou art my Judge.

O God, to do for Thee my part
And do it right, is all I ask;
Unloved, unsung, it shall be sweeter
When done for Thee—my hidden task.

"A book, though mainly as the writer makes it,
Is also largely as the reader takes it."

Our nobleness of soul consists in steady love of what is good, steady scorn of that which is evil.—Froude.

If every member were just like me,
What kind of Banner would our Banner be.

"A modest, sensible and well-bred man would not insult me, and no other can."

AND NOW A PRESS FOR THE BANNER PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

The Press We Need, This Press We Want, and This Press We Must Have
GET READY

AND NOW FOR A PRESS FUND. THIS FUND WE NEED, THIS FUND WE WANT, AND THIS FUND WE ARE GOING TO HAVE. GET READY.

GET READY, every Free Seventh-day Adventist and your friends, GET READY. Move now, and move with the spirit. VOTE with your hands down, not up, but down in your pockets. VOTE YES.

Follow these faithful brothers and sisters who have already subscribed to the PRESS FUND:

A. Hamilton	\$ 50.00
S. J. Aikens.....	50.00
J. V. Williams.....	50.00
Henry Williams	50.00
Arthur Jones	50.00
David E. William.....	50.00

Sisters:

Celeste Howard	\$ 20.00
Julia Gibbs	10.00
Amelia Clark	15.00
Maggie Hamilton	15.00
Effie Harris	15.00
Mattie Amaker	15.00
Clara Seigue	10.00
Georgia Williams	5.00
Helen Hills50
Mrs. Florence Williams..	5.00
Mrs. Julia Eversley.....	5.00
Philadelphia Company ..	24.80

Let each and every one who loves our cause, subscribe to the PRESS FUND.

Make all checks and money orders payable to The Banner Publishing Association, 610 W. 36th Street, Savannah, Ga.

Dear Brethren: I am in favor of your effort to buy a PRESS for the Association, and I am subscribing to the PRESS FUND \$....., to be paid monthly in three monthly payments as follows: \$..... I am herewith enclosing, \$..... to be paid in the next thirty days, and \$..... in sixty days.

Signed.....

Address.....

City

State.....